



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

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June 14, 2007

The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval H. 3481, R-133.

This bill creates an exemption to the Fire Sprinkler Safety Act for persons employed by public institutions of higher learning relating to fire sprinkler maintenance. Specifically, it allows any employee of a public institution of higher learning to work under the supervision of a person with NICET Level III training for the purpose of inspection, testing and maintenance of fire sprinklers.

There is merit to this and, therefore, this legislation; however, I must object to it because it carves out a very specific exemption for the public sector only. I believe in creating exemptions, they should be universal. Why would we do this for government only – and not allow a private institution or company with the same need not to do the same? In short, I believe this legislation is too narrowly crafted, and if legislation were sent to me broadly applying the same standard, I would support it.

This matter is also complicated by current law which suggests the purpose of this bill may be redundant. The current licensing process with the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation already allows for an in-house inspector if a company or institution is willing to go through the process. A NICET Level III certified employee can become licensed as a fire sprinkler inspector at a cost of \$100 a year and can oversee the inspection and maintenance of any fire sprinklers at their places of business.

I would encourage the General Assembly to sustain this veto and send legislation that is more broadly applied to any institution or business.

For these reasons, I have vetoed H. 3481, R-133.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Sanford", written over a horizontal line.

Mark Sanford